Permission of FDI in higher education

2136. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit FDI in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under twinning programme, a number of private institutes in the country, including deemed universities under private management, are conducting a number of courses, including engineering technical courses etc. jointly with similar institutes located abroad, particularly, under developed and developing nations;

(d) if so, the details of the Indian institutes conducting such courses;

(e) whether these institutes charge exorbitant fees from the students;

(f) whether there is any authority regulating fee, course and quality of such programme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector.

(c) to (g) No centralized data is maintained on twinning programmes between private institutions in India and similar institutes abroad. According to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Council have not approved any twinning programme with foreign education providers under its 'Regulation for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/ Institutions Imparting Technical Education in India', although they have approved three institutions in India with foreign collaboration. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved off-shore campuses of the following deemed to be universities under private management:—

(i) Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka, at Kualalampur, Dubai and Oman.

(ii) Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, at Dubai, and

(iii) Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, Jharkhand, at Muscat.

As per the guidelines for the deemed to be universities, in the case of self-financing institutions, fees to be prescribed shall be as per regulations under the UGC Act, 1956. As per the Regulation of the AICTE, the fee to be charged in each course to be offered by a foreign university/institution leading to a degree or a diploma shall be as prescribed by the AICTE.

Financial assistance to State Governments under SSA

2137. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given to State Government all over the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the name of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) the specific areas the State Governments are supposed to spend the above grants;

(c) whether Government carried out any monitoring or audit for the grants given to State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details of such monitoring and audit and also actions taken against the State who have not spent the money as required under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The details of funds released to States and Union Territories for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) by the Central Government is in Statement (*See* below). Funds are released under the programme as per approved activities of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which includes *inter alia* activities to promote access, retention and quality of learning in the elementary education sector.

(c) and (d) A system of regular financial monitoring is in place in SSA, through quarterly reviews with States and external verification through independent organizations. Audit arrangements under the SSA include a